

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for developing an application, the method comprising:

defining file borders for development objects in a data model, wherein the data model includes a component class and a model class associated with the component class, and a controller class, associated with the component class, that associates a user interface to a business application model;

storing the development objects of the application in a file-based repository based on the file borders; and

employing an API derived from the data model to access the development objects, wherein employing the API further comprises using tools that use the API to enable a user to perform a development operation; and

wherein the development operation comprises enabling a user to refactor a copied one of the development objects to modify a key attribute of the copied one of the development objects while updating existing references within a scope of the refactor without invalidating all existing references.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising caching the development objects in a local cache.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the file borders comprises identifying one of the development objects as a main development object to be included in a file with any development objects that are defined in the data model to be children objects of the main development object that are not identified as main development objects.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing in the file user-defined code associated with the main development object.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing in the file a reference to another development object stored in another file.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling a user to define a source path for one of the development objects.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the development operation includes a copy and paste operation.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling a user to define [[a]] the scope of the refactor.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the development operation includes storing translatable text separate from the development objects.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for developing applications, the method comprising:

generating a data model for an application, the data model being implemented in a language that includes a customizable extension, the data model including a feature defined using the customizable extension, wherein the data model includes a component class and a model class associated with the component class, and a controller class, associated with the component class, that associates a user interface to a business application model;

deriving an API from the data model, the API incorporating the feature;

enforcing constraints specified in the data model by employing the derived API during development of the application; and

enabling a user to access development objects of the application using the API, wherein tools that use the API enable a user to perform a development operation;

wherein the development operation comprises enabling a user to refactor a copied one of the development objects to modify a key attribute of the copied one of the development objects while updating existing references within a scope of the refactor without invalidating all existing references.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the feature comprises an indication used to implement a file border.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the feature comprises an indication used to implement a platform-specific feature.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the feature comprises an indication representing translatable text.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the feature comprises an indication representing that an aggregation in the data model is ordered.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the feature comprises an indication representing a singular name.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the feature comprises an indication representing that an attribute in the data model is nullable.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to perform a method product containing instructions which, when executed on a processor, form a system for developing an application, the system method comprising:

a repository storing defining file borders for development objects using file borders defined in a data model, wherein the data model includes a component class and a model class associated with the component class, and a controller class, associated with the component class, that associates a user interface to a business application model;

a local development cache for caching the development objects from [[the]] a repository into a local development cache;

an API derived from the data model;

employing a user interface development tool that uses [[the]] an API to access the development objects, wherein the API is derived from the data model; and

employing a second user interface development tool for enabling to enable a user to refactor a copied one of the development objects to modify a key attribute of the copied one of the development objects while updating existing references within a scope of the refactor without invalidating all existing references.

20. (Currently Amended) The system computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, further comprising wherein the method further comprises storing the repository in a repository server that includes the repository.

21. (Currently Amended) The system computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the user interface development tool comprises one of a project browser, an application modeler, a view designer, a controller and context editor, and a model editor.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the key attribute is a name, an aggregating parent, or a package for the development objects.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising enabling a user to define [[a]] the scope of the refactor refactor using the tools, wherein the user selects a value for the scope.